

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 A*D-20 **B-01 NIC-01

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EUR-25 DRC-01 /167 W

----- 105564

R 151437Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7146

INFO AMEMBASS* LIMA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

USCINCSO

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0206

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PE, MILI, PFOR

SUBJ: PINOCHET RESPONDS TO PERUVIAN "INITIATIVE" ON ARMS
LIMITATION

1. PROPOSAL OF PERUVIAN PRES. VELASCO FOR ARMS LIMITATION
CONFERENCE OF PERU AND NEIGHBORS, AS REPORTED IN SANTIAGO
PRESS JAN 11, BROUGHT TESTY RESPONSE FROM JUNTA PRESIDENT
GEN. PINOCHET. REPORT THAT VELASCO JUSTIFIED SOVIET TANK
PURCHASE BY CITING PREVIOUS ARMS PURCHASES BY NEIGHBORS
PROVOKED PINOCHET ASSERTION THAT CHILE HAS NOT AUGMENTED
ARMAMENT, INDEED HAS PURCHASED LESS THAN OTHER NATIONS OF
CONTINENT, AND IS NOW DEVOTED TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOP-
MENT. PINOCHET GRANTED ANY HEAD OF GOVERNMENT FREEDOM TO MAKE
DECLARATIONS, BUT NOTED SUCH PROPOSALS (FOR CONFERENCE)
NORMALLY MADE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

2. PERUVIAN INITIATIVE SUBJECT OF POPULAR TV TALK-SHOW JAN 13.
JAIME GUZMAN, INFLUENTIAL LEGAL ADVISOR AND CONSTITUTION
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DRAFTER TO GOC, AND OTHERS ON SHOW NOTED OLD LATIN AMERICAN

CUSTOM OF STOCKING UP ON ARMS AND THEN CALLING FOR FREEZE.
DESCRIBED PERU AS POINT OF SOVIET LANCE IN LA. INFLUENTIAL
INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE EL MERCURIO EDITORIAL JAN 14 CLAIMS
NEIGHBORS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT CHILEAN ARMS NEEDED AGAINST
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST REVENGE THREAT AGAINST CHILE.

3. COMMENT. GOC REACTION TO GOP INITIATIVE MUST BE DESCRIBED
AS VERY LUKEWARM. EMBASSY SANTIAGO FULLY AWARE TRADITIONAL
STRAINS BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE SINCE 1879, BUT HAS IMPRESSION
FROM RECENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTING FROM BOTH POSTS THAT GOP
AND GOC MAY BE INCREASINGLY MISREADING E*CH OTHERS' INTENTIONS
IN MUTUAL FEAR AND SUSPICION, HEIGHTENED ON CHILEAN SIDE BY
RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH "COMMUNIST INVASION" (MARXIST ALLENDE
GOVERNMENT) AND VIEW OF PERU AS TOO LIBERAL AND OPEN TO
SOVIET INFLUENCE. AS ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF WAR OF
PACIFIC APPROACHES MUTUAL SUSPICIONS AND EMOTIONS MAY STRAIN
RELATIONS. END COMMENT.
THOMPSON

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NNN

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